



# Moral STORIES

SHORT STORIES  
FOR KIDS



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# A Wise Old Owl



There was an old owl who lived in an oak tree. Every day, he observed incidents that occurred around him.

Yesterday, he watched as a young boy helped an old man carry a heavy basket. Today, he saw a young girl shouting at her mother. The more he saw, the less he spoke.

As the days went on, he spoke less but heard more. The old owl heard people talking and telling stories.

He heard a woman saying an elephant jumped over a fence. He heard a man saying that he had never made a mistake.

The old owl had seen and heard what happened to people. There were some who became better, some who became worse. But the old owl in the tree had become wiser, each and every day.

## *The Moral*

*Be more observant. Talk less and listen more.  
This will make us wise.*

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# The Farmer & the Well



One day, a farmer was looking for a water source for his farm, when he bought a well from his neighbor. The neighbor, however, was cunning. The next day, as the farmer came to draw water from his well, the neighbor refused to let him take any water.

When the farmer asked why, the neighbor replied, “I sold you the well, not the water,” and walked away. Distraught, the farmer went to the emperor to ask for justice. He explained what had happened.

The emperor called on Birbal, one of his nine, and wisest, courtiers. Birbal proceeded to question the neighbor, “Why don’t you let the farmer take water from the well? You did sell the well to the farmer?”

The neighbor replied, “Birbal, I did sell the well to the farmer but not the water within it. He has no right to draw water from the well.”

Birbal said, “Look, since you sold the well, you have no right to keep the water in the farmer’s well. Either you pay rent to the farmer, or take it out immediately.” Realizing that his scheme had failed, the neighbor apologized and went home.

## *The Moral*

*Cheating will not get you anything.  
If you cheat, you’ll pay soon enough.*

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# The Empty Pot



An emperor in China decides to choose his successor by organizing a contest.

He asks contestants to grow a flower and the most appealing flower will win the contest.

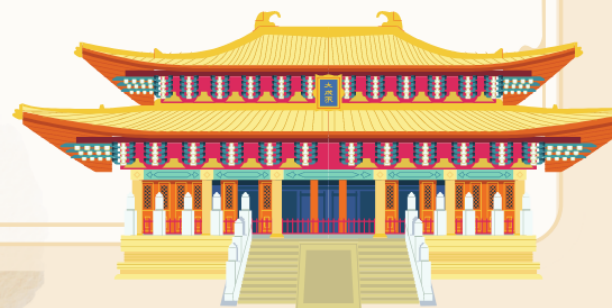
Ping works hard with persistence, however, he fails to grow a flower. But he honestly presents his empty pot in front of the emperor and gets the reward for his honest approach.

### *The Moral*

*Honesty is the best policy in life, even if you have to disappoint some people.*

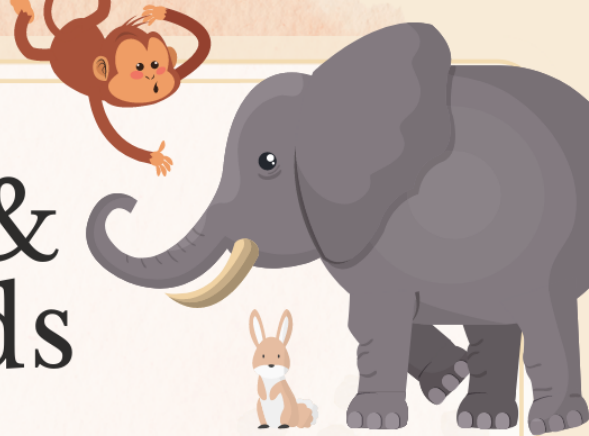
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# Elephant & Friends



A lone elephant walked through the forest, looking for friends.  
She soon saw a monkey and proceeded to ask,  
'Can we be friends, monkey?'

The monkey quickly replied, 'You are big and can't swing  
on trees like I do, so I cannot be your friend.'

Defeated, the elephant continued to search when it stumbled across a  
rabbit. She proceeded to ask him, 'Can we be friends, rabbit?'

The rabbit looked at the elephant and replied, "You are too big  
to fit inside my burrow. You cannot be my friend."

Then, the elephant continued until she met a frog.  
She asked, "Will you be my friend, frog?"

The frog replied, "You are too big and heavy; you cannot  
jump like me. I am sorry, but you can't be my friend."

The elephant continued to ask the animals she met on her way, but  
always received the same reply. The following day, the elephant saw all  
the forest animals run in fear. She stopped a bear to ask what was  
happening and was told the tiger was attacking all the small animals.

The elephant wanted to save the other animals, so she went  
to the tiger and said, "Please, sir, leave my friends alone.  
Do not eat them." The tiger didn't listen.  
He merely told the elephant to mind her own business.

Seeing no other way, the elephant kicked the tiger and scared him away.  
Upon hearing of the brave tale, the other animals agreed, "You are just  
the right size to be our friend."

*The Moral*  
*Friends come in every shape and size.*

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# A Glass of Milk



There once was a poor boy who spent his days going door-to-door selling newspapers to pay for school. One day, as he was walking his route, he started feeling low and weak. The poor boy was starving, so he decided to ask for food when he came to the next door.

The poor boy asked for food but was denied every time, until he reached the door of a girl. He asked for a glass of water, but seeing his poor state, the girl came back with a glass of milk. The boy asked how much he owed her for the milk, but she refused payment.

Years later, the girl, who was now a grown woman, fell sick. She went from doctor to doctor, but no one was able to cure her. Finally, she went to the best doctor in town.

The doctor spent months treating her until she was finally cured. Despite her happiness, she was afraid she couldn't afford to pay the bill. But, when the hospital handed her the bill, it read, 'Paid in full, with a glass of milk.'

*The Moral*  
*No good deed goes unrewarded.*

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# The Proud Rose



Once upon a time, in a desert far away, there was a rose who was so proud of her beautiful looks. Her only complaint was growing next to an ugly cactus.

Every day, the beautiful rose would insult and mock the cactus on his looks, all while the cactus remained quiet. All the other plants nearby tried to make the rose see sense, but she was too swayed by her own looks.

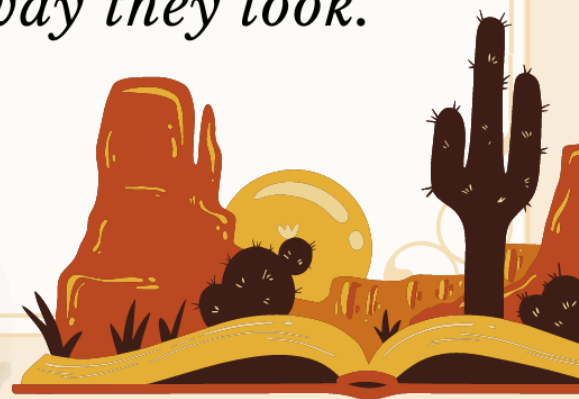
One scorching summer, the desert became dry, and there was no water left for the plants. The rose quickly began to wilt. Her beautiful petals dried up, losing their lush color.

Looking to the cactus, she saw a sparrow dip his beak into the cactus to drink some water. Though ashamed, the rose asked the cactus if she could have some water. The kind cactus readily agreed, helping them both through the tough summer, as friends.

*The Moral*  
*Never judge anyone by the way they look.*

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# Controlling Anger



Once, there was a young boy. This boy had problems controlling his anger. When he got angry, he would say the first thing that came to mind, even if it affected people.

One day, his father gifted him a hammer and a bundle of nails, then said, “Whenever you get mad, hammer a nail into the backyard fence.”

In the first days, the boy used up half of the nails. Over the next weeks, he used up fewer nails, until his temper was under control. Then, his father asked the young boy to remove a nail for each day he didn't lose his temper.

On the day when the boy removed his last nail, his father told him, “You have done good, boy. But, can you see the holes in the wall? The fence is never going to be the same. Likewise, when you say mean things in anger, you'll leave a scar.”

### *The Moral*

*Anger is like a knife — one of the most dangerous weapons. When you use it, the wounds will heal, but the scars remain.*

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# The Bear & Two Friends



One day, two friends were walking through the forest. They knew the forest was a dangerous place and that anything could happen. So, they promised to remain close to each other in case of any danger.

All of a sudden, a big bear was approaching them. One of the friends quickly climbed a nearby tree, leaving the other friend behind.

The other friend did not know how to climb, and instead, followed common sense. He laid down on the ground and remained there, breathless, pretending to be dead.

The bear approached the friend lying on the ground. The animal started to smell his ear before slowly wandering off again because bears never touch those who are dead.

Soon, the friend who hid in the tree came down. He asked his friend, “My dear friend, what secret did the bear whisper to you?” The friend replied, “The bear simply advised me never to believe a false friend.”

## *The Moral*

*A true friend will always support and stand by you in any situation.*

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# The Hungry Mouse



There lived a mouse that was hungry from many days. She could find no food at all. She looked here and there, but found no food. Hence, she grew thin. One day the mouse found a basket full of corn. There was a small hole in the basket. She went inside and began to eat the corn greedily. As she was very hungry, she went on eating and eating. Now, she had grown very fat.

After the meal, the mouse tried to come out of the basket, she could not. Now, she was too fat to pass through the hole. She said, "How shall I come out?" Just then a rat came along, and he heard the mouse. The rat said, "Mouse, if you want to come out of the basket, you must wait till you have grown as thin were when you went in."

*The Moral*  
*We should not be greedy.*

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# Maria & Cheese



In a small hut, on the hills in Scotland, lived Maria and her parents.

Her father didn't have money to send her to high school. So, Maria visited the dairy everyday together with her father.

While her father made cheese, Maria fed the cows and buffaloes, and played with the goats and sheep.

Maria loved cheese.

One day, she asked, "Daddy, please teach me how to make cheese?"

Daddy laughed and said, "Sure! Are you getting to make some for me as well?"

"I will make the best cheese in the world for you, daddy" smiled Maria.

Maria's father taught her to form cheese

Maria became passionate about cooking and everything related to cheese. Although she could never attend school, she learnt everything from her father and mother, hands on.

Years gone by, Maria became a great chef and made the planet famous blue cheese in her dairy .

*The Moral*

*Always make the most of what you've got.*

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# Defeating the Bully



Tommy was a big, strong, bully in class. He pushed round the other boys, beat them up, ate their lunch, and made them do his homework. His endless torture was unbearable.

One day the boys got together and decided to face up against Tommy.

"When he beats one among us, all folks will stand together to fight back," said a boy.

The other said, "If he eats our lunch, we'll stand together to retrieve it back from him."

Another one said, "I won't do his homework anymore. If he forces, we'll march to the teacher together to complain."

It was decided that they will all stand together when Tommy bullies any of them again.

When the time came, those boys stood together, as a team and showed Tommy that they weren't scared of him anymore. Tommy tried to push them harder. In the process, he got beaten up by all the boys.

Thereafter, Tommy never bullied anybody again, as he was shown his place.

### *The Moral*

*One man cannot fight a battle. But team can. Team work helps in achieving our goals.*

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# The Fox Without Tail



A fox was once caught in a trap. It was only after a tough struggle that she could get free. But, to her sorrow, her beautiful tail had been cut off and left in the trap.

"How ugly I shall look!" moaned the fox, "won't the other foxes laugh at me?"

Thinking hard, the fox hit upon a plan to save herself from being laughed at. She called a meeting of her friends and said, "Brothers! have you ever wondered why after all, we carry these long tails?" Let us cut them off and be free from their nuisance."

But the other foxes had noticed her cut-off tail. They laughed aloud and replied, "You used to say that tails looked very fine when your own was all right. Now that you have lost yours, you want us to lose ours too."

*The Moral*  
*Dirty tricks seldom work.*

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## Designed by English Created Resources

 **Beni Suef, Egypt**

 **admin@createdres.com**

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